

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18, of the specification as follows:

Commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/082,178, filed February 26, 2002 (~~Attorney Docket No. 50103-401~~), the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, discloses a method and apparatus for reliably, rapidly, and cost-effectively forming very sharply defined magnetic transition patterns in a magnetic medium containing a longitudinal or perpendicular type magnetic recording layer without requiring expensive, complicated servo writing equipment/techniques incurring long processing intervals.